

## Emergency parking rule questions and answers

1. *Why is an emergency parking rule needed?* The unusual snowfall has led to piles of plowed snow at the edge of streets throughout the Town, making the streets narrower. When cars park on the street next to the piled snow, the street becomes narrower still. If cars park on both sides of the street, then the street may become too narrow for a fire truck or ambulance to get by on the way to an emergency call.
2. *Why doesn't the Town remove all the piled snow?* Though the Town is removing piled snow on major roads, intersections, and around schools, removing all the piled snow on every street in Town is beyond the financial resources of the Town.
3. *What is the rule?* The basic rule is that cars will only be allowed to park on one side of most streets.
4. *What side of the street?* On most streets, cars will be allowed to park on the odd numbered side of the street, but there are a couple of exceptions that drivers have to know about.
5. *What are the exceptions?* The first exception: Some major streets and business areas will not be under this emergency rule, and parking will follow the usual rules. Please see the list at the end of this Q&A.
6. *What other exception is there?* The second exception: Some streets have had signs posted for a long time that do not allow parking on the odd-numbered side of the street, but parking on those streets has been allowed on the even side. On those streets, parking will still be allowed on the even side of the street and will still not be allowed on the odd side of the street.
7. *So on streets that already have signs that don't allow parking, parking is still not allowed?* That is correct. Parking still won't be allowed where any signs say parking is not allowed.
8. *What about streets where there aren't any signs saying "no parking"?* On streets where there are no signs prohibiting parking, this emergency rule means that parking will not be allowed on the even side but will be allowed on the odd side of the street.
9. *What if both sides of a street are posted "no parking"?* Then both sides of the street will continue to be "no parking".
10. *Can you use different words to explain the rule again?* Yes. (a) Obey any sign that says you **can't** park somewhere. (b) On streets where there are **no** signs saying you **can't** park there, park only on the odd side of the street. (c) On streets where there are signs saying you can't park on the odd side of the street, but there are no signs on the even side saying you can't park there, then you are allowed to park on the even side of that street. (d) Even when you are allowed to park somewhere, follow any rules about when and how long you can park there.
11. *What if signs seem to allow parking?* Signs that seem to allow parking do not matter. Follow the emergency rule to find out where you are not allowed to park.
12. *Is the ban on overnight parking still in effect?* Yes, parking overnight is still not allowed.
13. *Are there other parking rules I should know?* Yes. When you park your car, you always have to make sure that there is a ten foot wide lane left between your car

and anything else so fire engines and other cars can get through. The rule about one side of the street should help make sure that there is always a ten foot lane on every street.

14. *What other parking rule should I know?* Another rule is that you are not supposed to park so that the tires of your car are more than 12 inches from the curb or the edge of the road, even when snow piles make it impossible to get your car that close to the curb. Police officers apply some discretion with this rule during the winter and don't usually ticket people for this violation during the winter, but sometimes that officers have to.
15. *How long will this emergency rule last?* As soon as the streets are safe enough to end this rule, the Board of Selectmen will announce the end of this rule.
16. *Can I get a ticket if I break this rule?* Yes, a police officer can give out \$15 tickets for violating this rule. An officer can also have a car towed for violating this rule if it is needed.
17. *Can I get any more answers?* Yes. Call 617-993-2501 and a public safety dispatcher or police officer will try to answer your question.